

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Breakfast for Senator Leahy on Thursday, 2 October at 8:00 a.m.

FROM:

Dave Gries
Director of Congressional Affairs

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

1 October 1986

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.


DCI

2 OCT 1986

cc: DDCI
EXDIR
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1 October 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI
FROM: Dave Gries 
SUBJECT: Breakfast for Senator Leahy

STAT You are scheduled to host breakfast on Thursday, 2 October at 8:00 a.m. for Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D., VT). Also attending are: Bob Gates, Dick Kerr, myself and Eric Newsom, SSCI minority staff director and Leahy's designee.

As you know, Leahy asked to come out for breakfast because he is without family at the moment. He does not have anything in particular on his mind.

Although Leahy will leave the SSCI when the 99th Congress adjourns, he remains a member of Appropriations, but not our subcommittee.

Biographic information and proposed talking points are attached.

Attachments

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Vermont - Junior Senator

Patrick J. Leahy (D)

Of Burlington — Elected 1974

Born: March 31, 1940, Montpelier, Vt.

Education: St. Michael's College, B.A. 1961; Georgetown U., J.D. 1964.

Occupation: Lawyer.

Family: Wife, Marcelle Pomerleau; three children.

Religion: Roman Catholic.

Political Career: Chittenden County state's attorney, 1967-75.

Capitol Office: 433 Russell Bldg. 20510; 224-4242.



In Washington: Smart, affable and unpretentious, Leahy has not only the affection of Senate colleagues but their respect as well. An Irish Catholic with some of the plain-spoken qualities of a Vermont Yankee, he has survived nearly a decade of Senate life without picking up a trace of the self-importance that is the chamber's occupational disease.

The homespun style that helps Leahy politically in Vermont also is helpful on the Senate floor. During one debate on an appropriation for home heating aid for the Northeast, Leahy was able to speak from experience: He had been home that weekend putting the storm windows on his house.

But Leahy is no hick. While he works hard to defend Vermont's dairy farmers, his interests are global — he spent much of the 97th and 98th Congresses resisting President Reagan's policies on issues from arms control and foreign military aid to government secrecy and nutrition.

Leahy has a strategic place from which to continue his opposition to administration policies in the 99th Congress. As the new vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee, he is the top Democrat on an increasingly important panel that has access to some of the most sensitive material in government and plays a key role in the debate over Central America policy.

Throughout Reagan's first term, Leahy was the most consistent critic on the panel of covert U.S. support for "contra" guerrillas fighting the leftist government of Nicaragua. He visited the region in 1983, hinting upon his return that the administration was violating the law by trying to overthrow the regime. But, except for Democrat Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware, Leahy found few allies on the committee.

After the 1984 revelation that the CIA had backed the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, how-

ever, Leahy picked up more support from committee Democrats. By the end of the year, Congress had voted to cut off the aid at least temporarily.

Leahy wants to steer the Intelligence Committee away from covert aid and toward the study of ways to verify arms control treaties with the Soviets. A strong backer of arms control and the nuclear weapons freeze, he has urged that the Reagan administration continue to observe the limits of the unratified SALT II agreement. Working with Democrat Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, he sponsored a 1984 amendment urging that the administration "not undercut" the treaty — milder wording than sponsors originally had sought, but one able to gain overwhelming Senate approval.

The unexpected re-election defeat in 1984 of Walter D. Huddleston of Kentucky also left Leahy the senior Democrat on the Agriculture Committee. He could have become the panel's ranking member, but chose instead to give up the job to take the position on Intelligence. Still, he has not forfeited his right to become Agriculture chairman by seniority if the Democrats take control of the Senate in 1986.

Dairy farming dominates Vermont's agriculture, and milk is at the center of Leahy's concerns on the committee. His disputes with the Reagan administration over dairy issues began almost as soon as Reagan was inaugurated — Leahy strongly opposed the new administration's request for a cancellation in the scheduled increase in dairy prices in 1981. In 1983, he backed a controversial bill to pay dairymen for reducing production. Although administration officials were sharply critical of the bill, Reagan eventually signed it.

Leahy also has worked on the Agriculture Committee to hold off efforts to make severe

Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt.

cuts in the food stamp program. Working closely with Nutrition Subcommittee Chairman Robert Dole of Kansas, he came up with a series of moderate reductions in food stamp spending that headed off a more draconian package of cuts sponsored by full committee Chairman Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

Leahy has followed a similar bipartisan approach on the Judiciary Committee, joining with Republican Paul Laxalt of Nevada in pushing a bill to reform the federal government's regulatory process. After lengthy negotiations, the two Judiciary Committee members came up with a compromise bill that passed the Senate unanimously in the 97th Congress. It would have imposed cost-benefit analysis on new federal rules and given Congress more say in their approval. "After all the years of people talking about making government work better, we've actually sat down and done something that will," Leahy said. But the bill never passed the House.

Leahy agreed to another Judiciary Committee compromise, this time with Republican Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, on the Freedom of Information Act. Although the landmark anti-secrecy law is a subject close to Leahy's heart — "it is sometimes difficult for me to remember that it is only a statute and not a part of the Constitution," he says — he helped work out a proposal to provide new protections against release of data relating to criminal investigations. With the support of press lobbying groups, Leahy also was able to get into the bill a number of provisions to expand access to government information. The bill passed the Senate easily in 1984, but failed to win House approval that year.

Leahy has refused to go along with Hatch and other Republicans on a constitutional amendment to balance the federal budget. An outspoken opponent of the idea, Leahy offered four unsuccessful floor amendments that would have suspended the balanced budget requirement in times of high unemployment. Noting that the proposal allowed a budget waiver in times of war, Leahy said the Senate votes meant it was easier to send Americans to war than to work. The constitutional change passed the Senate in 1982, but died in the House.

After a two-year stint on Armed Services at the beginning of his Senate career, Leahy went to Appropriations, where he has served since 1977. That move proved to be a mixed blessing; as the most junior member eligible to chair a subcommittee, he had to spend four years heading the panel responsible for the District of Columbia's budget — a job with virtually no political benefit.

Despite his distaste for the job and his underlying belief in home rule for the District of Columbia on budget matters, Leahy was far from reticent about scrutinizing District spending requests and fighting those he considered unjustified.

He called the city's proposed new convention center a "taxpayer rip-off," infuriating D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, who called Leahy "that rinky-dink senator from the state nobody's ever heard of." Leahy had jersey printed up for his softball team that read "Rinky Dink Senator from Vermont."

Although he eventually approved the convention center project, Leahy remained skeptical of its backers' plans even after he gave up the District subcommittee chair. He offered an amendment in 1982 to bar the center from sponsoring sports events or concerts for profit, but it was defeated 40-54.

The Appropriations Committee also provides Leahy with a vantage point from which to attack enforcement of anti-pollution laws by the Environmental Protection Agency. A member of the subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the EPA budget, Leahy has been one of the most outspoken critics of the agency under Reagan, saying it has been unwilling or unable to carry out the environmental laws passed by Congress. He has proposed a number of amendments over the years to increase funding for EPA enforcement.

At Home: Leahy has survived in Vermont by emphasizing his roots in the state rather than his roots in the Democratic Party. Campaigning for a second term in 1980 against the national Republican tide, he fought off a New York-born GOP challenger with a carefully designed slogan: "Pat Leahy: Of Vermont, For Vermont."

It took that slogan and all the other ingenuity Leahy could summon to overcome the challenge from Stewart Ledbetter, former state banking and insurance commissioner. When the centrist Ledbetter won a primary victory over a more strident Republican, Leahy was placed in instant jeopardy. With financial help from national Republican groups, Ledbetter sought to convince voters that the incumbent was "out of touch with the thinking people of our state."

Ledbetter said Leahy was a free-spender and weak on defense. Leahy responded by explaining in detail why he opposed the B-1 bomber and citing cases in which he had supported the Pentagon.

It was well after midnight before the result became clear, but the last trickle of ballots gave Leahy re-election by less than 3,000 votes.

Vermont - Junior Senator

preserving his record of uninterrupted success as a Democrat in a Republican state.

Leahy started that record in Burlington, the state's one major Democratic stronghold, when elected as Chittenden County state's attorney at age 26. He revamped the office and headed a national task force of district attorneys probing the 1973-74 energy crisis.

So when he decided in 1974 to run for the Senate seat being vacated by Republican George D. Aiken, he had a solid base in Chittenden County to build on. At 34, Leahy

was still a little young to replace an 82-year-old institution in a tradition-minded state, but he was already balding and graying, and looked older than he was.

Leahy was an underdog in 1974 against U.S. Rep. Richard W. Mallary, who was widely viewed as heir-apparent and promised to vote in the Aiken tradition. But Mallary turned out to be a rather awkward campaigner, and Watergate had made Vermont more receptive to the heresy of voting Democratic than it had been in modern times.

Committees

Select Intelligence (Ranking)

Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry (2nd of 8 Democrats)
Agricultural Production, Marketing and Stabilization of Prices (ranking).

Appropriations (9th of 14 Democrats)

HUD - Independent Agencies (ranking); Foreign Operations; Interior and Related Agencies.

Judiciary (6th of 8 Democrats)

Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks; (ranking); Security and Terrorism (ranking).

Elections

1980 General

Patrick Leahy (D)	104,176	(50%)
Stewart Ledbetter (R)	101,421	(49%)

Previous Winning Percentage: 1974 (50%)

Campaign Finance

	Receipts	Receipts from PACs		Expenditures
1980				
Leahy (D)	\$525,547	\$213,760 (41%)		\$434,644
Ledbetter (R)	\$535,064	\$132,040 (25%)		\$532,904

Voting Studies

Year	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
	S	O	S	O	S	O
1984	30	62	85	11	15	77
1983	41	58	89	10	18	82
1982	37	62	91	9	12	88
1981	34	60	76	8	4	84
1980	64	22	72	16	13	75
1979	76	18	80	15	16	77
1978	87	10	90	7	13	84
1977	77	18	74	15	18	75
1976	36	51	91	5	7	89
1975	43	52	91	2	3	87

S = Support

O = Opposition

Key Votes

Overturn Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion (1983)	N
Allow chemical weapons production (1983)	N
Create Martin Luther King Jr. holiday (1983)	Y
Bar funding for MX missile (1983)	Y
Permit school prayer (1984)	N
Cut military aid to El Salvador (1984)	Y
Keep tax indexing (1984)	N
Retain funds for "Star Wars" defense research (1984)	N
Authorize procurement of 21 MX missiles (1985)	N

Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACA	AFL-CIO	CCUS-1	CCUS-2
1984	95	5	91	35	
1983	85	20	88	32	
1982	90	19	92	45	
1981	95	5	89	6	
1980	83	16	83	43	
1979	89	19	79	9	20
1978	65	21	79	24	
1977	80	15	80	17	
1976	85	8	85	0	
1975	94	0	71	0	

DINING ROOM EVENTS
CHECKLIST

Time/Date of Event: 0800-Thursday, 2 October 1986

Event: Breakfast XX Luncheon Dinner Other

Host: DCI XX DDCI ExDir Other

Place: DCI D.R. XX Executive Dining Room Other

In Honor Of: Senator Patrick J. Leahy

Total Number of Attendees: 7 *8

Sponsoring Component: OCA Charge To:

Contact: Michelle Ext.: Room: 7D43 Hqs.

Date Reservation Made: 17 Sept 1986 By: hcb

EDR and Zandra advised: 17 Sept 1986 Cys To: DCI; DDCI; ExDir; DDI
ADDO; OCA; EDR

Place Cards: N/A

Ordered: Date Received: Date To EDR: Date

Menu: WILL ORDER FROM MENU

Prepared Distributed To:

Mr. William J. Casey, host
Senator Patrick Leahy, guest of honor
*Mr. Eric Newsom, SSCI Staffer, guest
Mr. Robert M. Gates, DDCI
 ExDir
Mr. Richard Kerr, DDI
 ADDO
Mr. David Gries, D/OCA/DCI

